

copies of the amended claims are attached hereto):

B1
Sub 27
1 Claim 36 (amended). A mat comprising a plurality of discontinuous reinforcement
2 fibers, wherein the reinforcement fibers have at least a 9 to 1 machine to cross
3 direction mat strength ration, and wherein a basis weight of said mat falls within the
4 range of 68 to 339 gm/square meters.

1 Claim 37 (amended). A mat comprising a plurality of discontinuous reinforcement
2 fibers having at least a 90% machine direction orientation, and wherein a basis weight
3 of said mat falls within the range of 68 to 339 gm/square meters.

B2
Sub 37
1 Claim 40 (amended). A product comprising a plurality of mats, each of said mats
2 comprising a plurality of discontinuous reinforcement fibers having at least a 90%
3 machine direction orientation, and wherein a basis weight of each of said mats falls
4 within the range of 68 to 339 gm/square meters.

REMARKS

Claim 38 has been canceled. The features set forth in claim 38 have been incorporated in claims 36, 37, and 40. The application now includes claims 36, 37, and 39-42.

Claims 36-40 were rejected as being obvious over Casey. Claims 41-42 were rejected as being obvious over Casey in view of Bagg and Weeks.

A significant difference between the claimed invention and that disclosed in Casey is that the claimed invention is directed to a mat product which can be used in a variety of engineering operations (stamping, molding, etc.) to manufacture rugged, durable products (e.g., car parts, stereo speakers, sporting goods, etc. (see bottom paragraph of page 10)). In sharp contrast, the Casey reference is directed to paper manufacture. This difference is most graphic when comparing the weight of the mat